

member connection

ENERGY WISE MN

Visit energywisemn.com/promotions to learn more and complete a quiz for your chance to win a \$500 energy credit!

Rebate promotion starts Wednesday, April 1, and continues through June 30, 2020*
**Based on rebate budget availability*

WE PUMPED UP OUR REBATES
SO YOU CAN SHRINK DOWN YOUR BILL.

Save energy at home when you install a ductless air source heat pump.
And when you act now, you'll receive a supersized, limited-time rebate!

Ductless/Mini Split Air Source Heat Pump	Regular Rebate	Promo Rebate
Delivered fuels	\$100	\$450*
Electric heat	\$200	\$750*

*Minimum HSPF ≥ 9.0

Air source heat pumps provide **home cooling and supplemental heating**, using **72% less electricity** than conventional air conditioners and furnaces.

Limited funds are available and awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. Rebate amounts and programs are subject to change without notice.

Annual Cogeneration
Notification to Membership

In compliance with Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric's (SWCE's) adopted rules relating to cogeneration and small power production, SWCE is obligated to interconnect with and purchase electricity from cogenerators and small power producers, whom satisfy the conditions as a qualifying facility. SWCE is obligated to provide information free of charge to all interested members upon request regarding rates and interconnection requirements. All interconnections require an application and approval to become a qualifying facility. Any dispute over interconnections, sales, and purchases are subject to resolution by the SWCE Board. Interested members should contact SWCE, 2411 W. Bridge St., PO Box 485, Owatonna, MN 55060-0485, or call 507-451-7340 or toll-free 800-526-3514.



Applications for Don Tuerk Memorial
Scholarship accepted through March 31

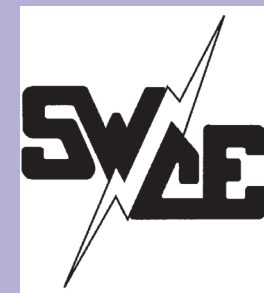
The Owatonna Eagles announced applications are presently being accepted for the Don Tuerk Memorial Scholarship.

Tuerk was a community-minded Owatonna native and Owatonna fireman. He was a long time and very active Eagles Aerie 1791 member. Don died on Dec. 20, 2015. In keeping with Don's values and the Owatonna Eagles mission, the Eagles established a memorial scholarship in Don Tuerk's name to assist students seeking to further their education in a public service field.

Eligibility requirements include: the scholarship is open to traditional and non-traditional students; the scholarship is for those planning to attend a post-secondary school (two- or four-year); the recipients model a positive and moral character; and the recipients are seeking education for a career in public service.

Three \$1,000 scholarships are being awarded. The application deadline is March 31, 2020. Applicants need to submit their name, address, phone number and email. They need to identify either their parents or guardian, the college they will be attending, and the major they will study. On a separate sheet of paper, applicants must submit a typed essay (maximum of 300 words) that demonstrates how they value civic and public service, and what this scholarship would mean to them.

Applicants may submit their information and essay to Shannon DeWitz in the Owatonna High School office.



the power of human connections

sparks

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

a monthly newsletter from Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric

April 2020

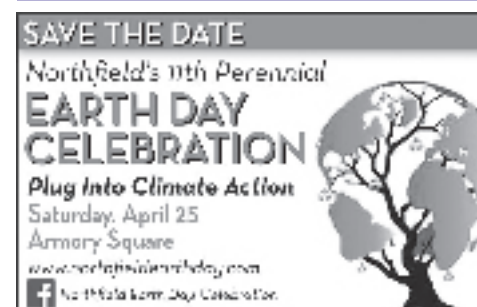
inside connections

- 2 Manager Connection
- 3 Hartle retires from SWCE
- 4 Cookin' Connection
SWCE community solar update
Stray voltage questions
- 5 Baby-proofing your home
Meatball Dinner in Geneva
Veterans Open Roundtable in Owatonna
- 6 Ad Connection
4-Seasons Vacations
- 7 Ad Connection
ASHP Rebate Promotion
- 8 Ductless Air Source Heat Pump
Rebate Promotion
Cogeneration Notification
Owatonna Eagles announce
Don Tuerk Memorial Scholarship

calendar of events

April

- | | |
|----|--|
| 10 | Good Friday
SWCE office is closed |
| 12 | Easter |
| 13 | NRECA Nat'l Lineworker
Appreciation Day
Thomas Jefferson's b-day |
| 15 | Income tax filing deadline |
| 16 | Minn. Tornado Drill Day |
| 22 | Earth Day
Administrative
Professionals Day |
| 24 | Audition deadline for
singing national anthem at
SWCE annual meeting |
| 30 | Vietnam War ended in
1975 |



Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric Nominating
Committee announce board candidates for 2020

The Nominating Committee for Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric have announced their selection of candidates for the board of director seats up for election in Districts 7, 8, and 9 at this year's annual meeting, Tuesday, June 2.

The committee met Nov. 20, 2019, at Steele-Waseca's headquarters in Owatonna. Cooperative Attorney Eric Mattison reviewed the duties of the Nominating Committee as stated in the bylaws. He also discussed in detail policies regarding the activities and conduct of individual board members, qualifications for eligibility for service on the board, the director election filing form and affirmation of director qualifications, and questions concerning qualifications for director.

Steele-Waseca Board President Gary Wilson highlighted areas of the board of director position description with the committee. He also talked about potential questions a candidate may have, highlighting the time commitment it takes to be a director on the board.

General Manager Syd Briggs reviewed the selection process with the committee. He also explained the nominating committee policy and the rotation plan for the Nominating Committee of always keeping six experienced members on the committee, and adding three new members each year.

A list of members in each district was handed out and reviewed. It was suggested the committee members from each district meet together to search for candidates and review the information given to them.

Committee member Bert Wiersma was nominated and approved by the committee to serve as nominating committee chairperson, and report to the Steele-Waseca members in attendance for the annual meeting.

The Nominating Committee conduct-

ed their second meeting Wednesday, Jan. 22, at the co-op's headquarters in Owatonna.

Mattison reviewed director duties and standard of conduct policy, and qualifications for eligibility for service on the board of directors policy.

Wilson reviewed the director position description, highlighting director responsibilities, board-manager relations, board-cooperative member relations, and board-community relations.

Each district committee announced the candidates from their respective district, which was approved by the Nominating Committee, to appear on the election ballot for Steele-Waseca's 84th annual meeting, June 2, 2020, at the co-op's headquarters located at 2411 W. Bridge St, Owatonna:

• **District 7:** Incumbent John R. Beal, Faribault.

• **District 8:** Incumbent Ronald D. Sommers, Northfield.

• **District 9:** Incumbent Renee J. Malecha, Dundas.

A profile of each candidate will appear in the May 2020 *Sparks* newsletter. Additional candidates may be nominated from the floor during the annual meeting with nominations closing at that time. 17374

This year's Nominating Committee consisted of the following Steele-Waseca members: District 7—Frank/Joyce Ahlman, Faribault; Lester/Jane Kroeger, Waseca; and Peter Rohe, Faribault; District 8—Doug/Cindy Finch, Owatonna; Keith/Carol Schrader, Nerstrand; and Bert Wiersma, Ellendale; District 9—Jane Middlestadt, Owatonna; and James/Patricia Pagel, Faribault. **SWCE**

the power of human connections

SWCE

sparks

Published monthly by
Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric
2411 W Bridge Street, PO Box 485
Owatonna MN 55060-0485

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Website: www.swce.coop
Email: swce@swce.coop
Fax: 507-446-4242

Find us on Facebook

Board of Directors

PJ Duchene District 1

Geraldine Lienke District 2

Duane Edwardson, *Chaplain* . District 3

Dennis Ringhofer District 4

Rodney Krell District 5

Gary Wilson District 6

President, GRE Director

John Beal, *Vice President* District 7

Ronald Sommers District 8

Assistant Secretary/Treasurer

Renee Malecha District 9

Secretary/Treasurer

Management

Syd Briggs *General Manager*

Division Managers

Darla DeVries *Office*

David Lundberg *Finance*

Kim Huxford *Operations*

Office Hours

8:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m., Monday–Friday

Operations Office Hours

8:00 a.m.–3:30 p.m., Monday–Friday

For Customer Service, Billing
Questions and Power Outages
Phone:

507-451-7340 or 800-526-3514

Before calling to report an outage

1. Check fuses and circuit breakers
in your home and on meter pole.

2. Check with your neighbors to
see if they have power.

3. Look for possible causes such
as a tree branch on wires, a
broken pole, twisted wires, etc.

To leave a non-emergency message
whenever SWCE's Office is closed:

Phone 507-451-7340 or 800-526-3514
and listen to the prompts. Please have
your account number, phone number, and
name on the account available.

Call *Before* You Dig
Gopher State One Call
811 or 800-252-1166
48-hour notice required for ALL
underground cable locations

manager connection

By Syd Briggs,
General Manager

Lineworkers serve on the frontlines of our nation's energy needs, and on Monday, April 13, Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric, along with other electric cooperatives across the country, formally honor the line technicians who work hard to keep the lights on.

Line crews work around the clock, sometimes in difficult and dangerous conditions, to keep power flowing to our local communities. Whether they're restoring power after a major storm or maintaining critical infrastructure to our electric system, lineworkers are at the heart of Steele-Waseca.

When a storm hits, they set aside their personal priorities because Mother Nature doesn't work around holidays, vacations, and birthdays. A service-oriented mentality is one of the many admirable characteristics of an electric lineworker.

Steele-Waseca is proud to honor the line technicians that maintain 2,200 miles of power lines in our service area encompassing 900 square miles. The co-op has experienced the retirements of two line technicians within the past year. Line Foreman Jim Wolters retired July 8, 2019, after a 43-year career at Steele-Waseca; and Line Foreman Nordean Hartle retired Wednesday, March 4, after dedicating over 27 years at the co-op.

Also, within the past year, Steele-Waseca welcomed Apprentice Line

Technician Tanen Holzem, July 1, 2019, and will be hiring another apprentice line technician before the end of March 2020. A photo featuring Steele-Waseca's line technicians will be published in the May 2020 *Sparks* newsletter coming out with the bills in April. 25648

Steele-Waseca invites all co-op members to take a moment and thank a lineworker for the important work they do. On April 13, you can use #ThankALineworker on social media to show your support for the brave men and women who power our lives.

Find it fitting to end this month's column with a 2015 board resolution from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, "Whereas linemen leave their families and put their lives on the line every day to keep power on; Whereas linemen work 365 days a year under dangerous conditions to build, maintain and repair the electric infrastructure; Whereas linemen are the first responders of the electric cooperative family, getting power back on and making things safe for all after storms and accidents; and Whereas there would be no electric cooperatives without the brave men and women who comprise our corps of linemen; Therefore be it resolved that NRECA recognize the Second Monday of April each year as National Lineman Appreciation Day and make available to electric cooperatives, materials and support to recognize the contributions of these valuable men and women to America's Electric Cooperatives."

Syd

ad connection

(For Sale ads continued from Page 6)

LAYING HENS; NEW ZEALAND MIX RABBITS; LONGHORN BRED COW, 4-yrs-old; BULL, 2-yrs-old. 465-8593.

2002 HONDA GOLDWING TRIKE MOTORCYCLE, 1800cc, vry nice cond., 39,575 mi., has trailer hitch & light connection. 213-6427/txt.

WEIDER SKI MASTER CROSS COUNTRY SKIER EXERCISE MACHINE, \$10. 838-8792.

CERAMIC FLOWER POTS, lv. msg. 451-4133.

2009 PALM BEACH PONTOON, 20', 50 hp, 2-stroke Mercury motor, \$10,995. 339-6027.

JD 1750 PLANTER, 6-row, liq. fert. 583-2026.

GRASS HAY, sm. sq. bales, Waldorf. 327-3672.

COUNTRY HOME w/3-outbuildings on 5-acres west of Mdfd, (3) bdrm, (2) ba, blacktop road. 213-0059.

GARY FISHER MTB, 21-spd, 26x175, men's, \$100; TREK 220, 24x175, boy's, 21-spd, \$50; SCHWINN THRASHER, 6-spd, 24x175, \$40. 330-3178.

1975 16' LUND BOAT & ROLLER TRAILER, Mercury 25-hp motor, (2) swivel seats, oars, anchor, new spare, cover, \$2500. 317-4335.

IH 18' DISC, \$1250. 456-7633.

(2) TIRES W/RIMS, 16.5L-16.1; FORD 4000 BACK-HOE; (2) PARKER GRAIN WAGONS, 350-bu. 475-2029.

1995 PALM BEACH PONTOON, Super 18 w/2002 60-hp 2-stroke & bunk-style trailer, \$7500; 1973 15' LUND BOAT w/20-hp tiller & roller trailer, \$2500. 412-0251/Fbo.

CASE IH MOLDBOARD, fits 16" 179314 A1 diamond finish; GRASS HAY, 4x5 net-wrapped bales, cut from waterways & ditches. 451-5131.

PROFORM XP WHIRLWIND 280 EXER. MACHINE, exc. shape, \$225; HUFFY EXER. MACHINE, exc. shape, \$40. 475-4584.

IBC TOTES, \$45; 2005 CHEVY EQUINOX LT, 164,000 mi., \$1600. 995-7021.

COMPUTER MONITOR w/accessories, speakers, keyboard music DVD discs & all cords, \$75/oob. 456-7757.

VERIZON MOBILE HOTSPOT ELLIPSIS in box, used (1) mth, \$20; COLLECTION OF (9) DREAM-SICLES w/boxes, \$20; PFALTZGRAFF COOKIE JAR, rose pattern, \$25. 789-6596.

LARGE ROLL TOP DESK, gd cond., \$100 (texts preferred if you need more details); U OF M BAR STOOLS & SM. TABLE, \$50 (txt me if interested & I will send photo). 952-261-6601.

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric (SWCE) assumes no liability for the content of, or reply to, any item posted. The party posting any advertisement assumes complete liability for the content of, and all replies to, any advertisement and for any claims against SWCE as a result thereof, and agrees to indemnify and hold SWCE harmless from all costs, expenses, liabilities and damages resulting from, or caused by, any advertisement or reply thereto.

ENERGY WISE MN

Visit energywisemn.com/promotions to learn more and complete a quiz for your chance to win a \$500 energy credit!

Rebate promotion starts Wednesday, April 1, and continues through June 30, 2020*
*Based on rebate budget availability

WHETHER TEMPS RISE OR FALL,
YOUR ENERGY BILL WILL STAY COOL.

Take advantage of these hot promo rebates when you install a qualifying, energy-saving air source heat pump!

Air Source Heat Pump	Promo Rebate
≥ 8.2 HSPF	\$1,000
≥ 9.0 HSPF	\$2,000

Air source heat pumps provide **home cooling and supplemental heating**, using **72% less electricity** than conventional air conditioners and furnaces.

Limited funds are available and awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. Rebate amounts and programs are subject to change without notice.

2

sparks • april 2020

sparks • april 1061107

7

Apr20.indd 2

3/25/2020 9:46:22 AM

ad connection

give away

WOOL SOCKS, (8) pair; (5) HEADBANDS; (2) STOCKING CAPS; GLOVES, (3) pair. 451-9445.

EVERETT SPINET PIANO, blond, rarely used, exc. cond. 581-2813.

FREE ONLINE CLASSIFIEDS, you place & remove your own ad on SWCE's website, swce.coop, these are separate from Sparks & will not appear in Sparks unless mailed, delivered, faxd or emailed to SWCE.

wanted

TRACTOR TIRE CHAINS, size 18-4-34. 456-0296.

FORD SKID STEER, diesel. 330-1849.

PASTURE FOR (15) BEEF COWS in the Nfld, Denison, or Nerstrand area. 451-2722.

OIL BARRELS, 265-300 gal. 276-2407.

PASTURE SPACE in the Blmg Pr., Claremont, Owat. area. 456-0918.

JUNKERS OR REPAIRABLES, top \$ pd for cars & trucks. 332-2300.

SM. PASTURE near the Fbo area. 612-703-1316.

UNWANTED BIKES & LAWN MOWERS, \$ pd on delivered. 330-3178.

SOLID FORD MODEL T BODY w/good wood. 583-7974/leave message.

MFWD for spring planting season horsepower (180-220). 475-2029.

SM. MANURE SPREADER, hobby farmer, must work. 339-8577 or 685-4372.

for sale

DUMP TRUCK AVAIL. FOR ALL YOUR TRUCKING DELIVERIES: rock, gravel, dirt, etc., 15.5-ton capacity. 456-7774.

PUREBRED GERMAN SHEPHERD PUPPIES, blk & tan, great pets, 1st shot, dewormed, vet checked, \$300/cash. 319-3924.

(6) ANGUS FEEDER CALVES, 300- to 400-lbs. 332-2567/evenings.

RENTAL, Izaak Walton League Bldg., 4 mi. south of Owat., seats 100, full kitchen, grill, Wi-Fi, \$125. 451-7946.

Sparks Free Classified Ad Form for all SWCE Members

Ads need to be received in our office by April 6 to ensure being printed in the May Sparks. Please print neatly or type your ad of 20 words or less on this form. We reserve the right to edit ad copy to allow space for more ads. Ads received after the 6th will be printed in the June issue.

☐ For Sale ☐ Wanted ☐ Give Away

Phone # _____ Account # _____

Name _____

Clip and mail to: SWCE, PO Box 485, Owatonna MN 55060-0485, or fax to: (507) 446-4242 or email your ad to: sparks@swce.coop.

All area codes are 507 unless otherwise noted

OREGON 511A CHAIN SAW SHARPENER, elec., \$100. 251-7680.

SHINGLING & LIGHT CONSTRUCTION, free estimates. 456-0296.

1999 MAZDA B3000, 161,000 mi., \$1200; 2001 DODGE DAKOTA V8 MAGNUM, 4x4, many new parts, \$2000. 402-7679.

IH 1086, gd TA, gd tires, gd cond.; 8' SCHWEISS SNOWBLOWER; 8' BISON REAR-MOUNT BLADE, 3' kingpin, hvy duty. 451-0906.

BEACHFRONT VACATION CONDOS FOR RENT in Fort Myers Beach, South Padre Island & Mexico, visit www.sandysbeachfrontcondo.com for details & photos. 612-865-9604/Sandy.

JD 8-ROW CULTIVATOR; MARLISS 13' SOYBEAN/GRAIN DRILL; JD 1280 PACKER PLANTER; JD 2600 PLOW, 4-btm; 300-GAL. DIESEL BARREL, gravity fed. 213-9095.

1938 FORD PICKUP, restored, runs & drives; 1975 CHEVY C65 DIESEL TRUCK, air brakes, twin screw, 20' box. 327-3626.

VARIETY OF MEN'S & WOMEN'S OLD WEST/FRONTIER CLOTHING incl. hats, skirts, vests, frocks, shirts, trousers & accessories.952-451-4821.

SINGLE MATT., BOX SPRING, & FRAME, new (has never been slept on), \$75/obo. 380-5054.

'08 F150 XLT CREW CAB, 5.4L, vry nice cond., 106,000 mi., tonn. cover, no rust, \$12,000/obo; '01 27' PROWL R TRAVL TRLR, sleeps 8, vry clean, everything wrks, stored inside, \$5000/obo. 210-7044.

WeatherTech® FLOOR LINERS, fits Buick Encore, GMC Acadia, & Chevy Traverse, new, \$70. 456-8814.

FORTUNE CREEK TRL LOTS, the covenant allows for a pole shed, starting at \$75,000. 838-5033/John.

UTILITY TRAILER, 12'x7'4", \$1500/obo; ELEC. STOVE, \$100; AQUARIUM, 25-gal., like new, \$100; ELEC. SCOOTER, \$200; TRAILER HITCH HAULER, \$125. 210-9846.

GOODYEAR 18.4-38 TIRES & TUBES. 330-1849.

INVERSION TABLE, best offer. 239-2321.

MINI STORAGE UNITS, Blmg Prairie. 456-2957.

COCKER SPANIEL PUPS, America's Pet Registry, parti buff/white, ready March 20, \$450; RAG RUGS, handwoven, \$25. 455-0043.

2009 25' SPRINTER COPPER CANYON CAMPER, exc. cond., used vry little, always shedded, (1) owner. 456-8596.

(2) YEARLING FAINTING DOE GOATS; (3) YEARLING HALF-BOER HALF-FAINTING DOE GOATS. 456-1357.

CLIMATE CONTROLLED UNITS FOR RENT, 11'x9' to 16'x10'. 332-4623.

(10) ANTIQUE TIN CEILING PANELS, refinished, 24x30, \$45/each. 456-2048.

LAWN MOWING, medium to large areas including farms, city or county; GARDEN TILLING, medium to large areas; LAWN MOWER & CHAIN SAW BLADE SHARPENING. 213-0829/Jerry.

FARM SITE: (4) bdrm, central air, 4-season porch, sewer updated, large shop/office, pasture, barns & sheds, 60,000-bu. grain storage, Steele Cty Rd 33 W.; STRAW, sm. sq., oat/wheat bales. 461-0898.

TREE TRIMMING, REMOVL & STUMP GRINDING, pro climber & aerial lift to U of M guidelines; FRONT CHROME BUMPER for an F-650, new. 456-1609.

9'2" BOSS EXT. V-PLOW, \$5500; 10,000# FEHLING SKID LOADER TRAILER, \$1700. 334-7177.

MINI STORAGE UNITS FOR RENT in Ellendale. 456-1460.

LAYING HENS. 612-703-1316.

ENGINES & TRANSMISSIONS; TRUCK & AUTO PARTS. 332-2300.

TRI-COLLIE BORDER COLLIE SPANIEL DOG, yr old, male, \$100/obo. 320-0712.

(For Sale ads continued on Page 7)

travel

SAVANNAH & CHARLESTON, April 18-26. By motor coach, 8 nights, 14 meals, guided tours, evening show at famous Savannah Theater, Charleston harbor cruise. \$1,699 pp w/2 per room.

NATIONAL PARKS ARIZ. & UTAH, May 8-18. By motor coach, 10 nights, 15 meals, Durango/Silverton train ride, Painted Desert Petrified Forest, Grand Canyon, & more! \$1,699 pp w/2 per room.

MONUMENTS OF WASHINGTON, D.C., May 15-19. Delta flight, 8 meals, guided Monuments & Memorial tours, tram ride through Arlington Nat'l Cemetery, 2 day tours of D.C. \$1,599 pp w/2 per room.

ARK ENCOUNTER & CREATION MUSEUM, June 14-19. By motor coach, 9 meals, includes Lincoln's boyhood home, museum, & tomb, Judge Davis Mansion, & more! \$999 pp w/2 per room.

Call 4-Seasons at 800-328-4298 and reserve space today! Be sure to tell us you are Steele-Waseca members!



member connection

Hartle retires after nearly 28 years with Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric

Line Foreman Nordean Hartle retired Wednesday, March 4, after 27-plus years at Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric, a career he had aspirations for since his teenage years.



Nordean Hartle

"When I was a teenager, my older brother was an agricultural instructor in Glencoe, MN," wrote Nordean. "He had a display board that he used in his classroom to demonstrate how electricity works. I knew then my future would be in the electrical field. While in high school, I spent three summer[s] employed by the Owatonna Public Utilities [OPU] in the gas and electric departments. After graduation, I attended Albert Lea Vocational Technical Institute and graduated with a Construction Electrician Degree. In the spring of 1979, the line foreman at OPU called me to come and apply for a job with the electrical line crew." Nordean was with OPU until Steele-Waseca called him in 1992 and asked if he would consider a position with the co-op.

Nordean officially started at Steele-Waseca on June 4, 1992. "I enjoyed working at both utility companies," reflected Nordean, "as the requirements of the job were essentially the same. It was my responsibility to build and maintain lines that supplied electricity to our members. While working at Owatonna Public Utilities, we had the luxury of being in a city setting close to our customers. At SWCE, jobs take longer due to the distance traveled in the rural community. We would stay longer to complete the project, versus going back the next day." 136854

When asked of his memorable Steele-Waseca experiences, Nordean recalled the many storms that left damage to the co-op's lines and members without power. "It was with great satisfaction knowing our team of linemen were always working together to restore power as quickly as possible," stated Nordean. "I must admit, I was able to experience many sunrises and sunsets while working long hours to get the electricity back on. While out during a storm, the element of nature is all around you, lightning, thunder, wind, rain, snow making

the job more challenging."

Nordean also recalled a particular outage call a few years ago, "While heading back into Steele-Waseca late one night after being called out, we were having difficulty seeing the roads during a blizzard and zero visibility. We encountered a car that was stopped in the middle of the road. The young woman in the car was unsure of her location, due to the whiteout conditions. We told her to follow us into Owatonna, where she spent the night." It prompted this thank you note from her:

"I was on my way from St. Cloud trying to beat the storm & get back to my baby son in Rochester. Once I hit Owatonna I could barely see & took a wrong turn...& was stuck on some other road that I didn't know where I was & was sitting there scared & crying. One truck passed me but 2 men from this coop stopped to check on me & let me follow them to Owatonna to get a hotel. If this card ever gets to those men I am so grateful that they were my angels that night! Thank you so much! Amber"

Another memorable experience for Nordean was traveling with fellow Lineman Jack Schwab to the Franklinton, Louisiana area in 2005 to assist with recovery efforts following Hurricane Katrina. "I feel fortunate to live in Minnesota, as the devastation of hurricanes can cause a great deal of heartache," wrote Nordean. "The weather in Louisiana did not work in the crews favor. The heat soaring past 90 degrees and the heat index reached over 100. The most rewarding part of our journey was bringing power back to families. The residents were so kind and thankful for our efforts. In other areas, we couldn't supply power to houses because electricians needed to complete repairs between lines and the house first."

When asked about impactful equipment and technological advancements since he started at Steele-Waseca, Nordean responded, "All the line crew currently have iPads in their trucks. The iPads have replaced our paper map for locating members. We can get information that will tell us the size of a pole, transformer, wire size and how it is framed. As well as the phase the member is on." Adding, the software has "a

wealth of information" and is "extremely efficient."

"For many years I used a handheld crimper, now we use battery crimpers," explained Nordean. "We also have battery impact drills for tightening hardware, when framing poles, instead of using a wrench. For many years, we dug a hole, set the pole, and then shoveled the dirt back in around it, tamped it, now we put dirt on a tarp and lift it with the digger winch line to fill the hole with dirt and rock."

Nordean added the purchase of the following Kubota equipment makes their job more efficient and safer. "[The] mini excavator and skid loader are useful for construction work in wet and difficult locations that we are unable to get our big digger trucks into," stated Nordean. "We also have a Ring-O-Matic (Mudsucker) that is utilized when we need to set a new pole or replace an existing pole when gas, phone lines, or fiber cable is nearby. Before the purchase of the Mudsucker, time was spent locating the utilities digging by hand."

When asked what he will miss at Steele-Waseca, Nordean replied, "First and foremost I will miss the company of my fellow coworkers. Our goal is the same, to work safely in the elements and provide electrical service to all the members we serve. I will also miss being a part of the 'projects' building new lines, replacing and maintaining."

As for his plans in retirement, "I will continue to enjoy my grandchildren [four in all] by attending their school and athletic events," stated Nordean. "They all like to go fishing and of course I do too." Nordean and his wife, Rhonda, have a daughter, Jenny, and son, Tony, both residing in Owatonna. "As for me, I will dust off my golf clubs and put them to good use. I have always wanted to volunteer in our community, now more than ever it will [be] feasible. I would also like to continue traveling to new destinations with my wife. I am almost certain retirement will fall into place, as I have had the good fortune of employment, family and friends all along the way."

Steele-Waseca wishes to thank Nordean for his years of dedicated service to the co-op, and the opportunity to enjoy his retirement.

cookin' connection

Pronto Shrimp

Audrey Blouin

Owatonna

10-15 tiger prawn shrimp or jumbo shrimp

1/2 c. cornmeal

1/4 c. sugar

4 tsp baking powder

2 tsp salt

1 egg, beaten

1 c. milk

1 1/2 c. flour

Mix dry ingredients. Add egg and milk, beat until smooth. Dip shrimp in batter and fry at 375 to 400°. Deep fry until brown on both sides.

Please use a 3 x 5 card when submitting your recipe. The member whose recipe is published will receive a \$7 energy credit.



Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric's solar subscribers will see a 31 kWh credit per panel on this month's statement for energy generated during February 2020. Learn more about community solar and The Sunna Project by visiting Steele-Waseca's website, swce.coop.

Was your account number in Sparks?

Each month five account numbers are printed in *Sparks* and a total of \$35 in energy credits is divided among however many of those numbers are found. For example, if all numbers are found, a credit of \$7 will be applied to the members' following month's electric bills; or, if only one number is found, that member receives the full \$35 credit. Members finding their numbers who have a load management receiver on their dual fuel, electric water heater, air conditioner, or genset will receive an additional \$7 credit. When you find your number, phone our office no later than the 7th of the month following receipt of the *Sparks*, or the amount will be forfeited.

March issue of Sparks



Numbers found:

Larry/Darla Kokoschke

Numbers not found:

Andrew/Jody Buckmeier

Eric/Jennifer Fiala

Vance Vinar Sr.

Nathan Ost



sparks • april 2020

Sparks in brief . . .

• **Want easy energy payments?** Sign up for **EnergyPay Plus**, our automatic payment plan, or **Energy Prepay**, our discounted advance payment plan. Contact our office for details. You may also pay your bill online at www.swce.coop. By entering your Steele-Waseca username and password you can also view a 13-month history of your account.

• **If you have changed or added phone numbers**, please contact SWCE to update your contact information.

• **Need a new water heater?** For information about our Westinghouse Electric Water Heater Program, phone Cindy Butterfield at our office between 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m., 446-4204 / 800-526-3514.

• **February temps** – The average high temperature for February was 26°F, while the average low was 7°F. This resulted in 1,398 Heating Degree Days (HDDs) and 0 Cooling Degree Days (CDDs). They compare to last year's average high of 20°F and average low of 1°F, which resulted in 1,529 HDDs and 0 CDDs.

• **ENERGY STAR® Rebates** – In 2020, all ENERGY STAR refrigerators/freezers (with recycling), electric clothes dryers, dehumidifiers, central air conditioners, air and ground source heat pumps, light emitting diode (LED) bulbs purchased (limit 5) are eligible to receive rebates (may not be combined with special promotions). Rebate request forms must be submitted within 90 days of purchase. Rebate forms are available at swce.coop. For more information or to receive a rebate request form, phone Cindy Butterfield at 800-526-3514. 1025694

• **SWCE's tree service contractor** – Carr's Tree Service, Inc., is contracted to do SWCE's tree trimming. To report a tree concern, phone:

507-451-7340 / 800-526-3514

LIVESTOCK OWNERS

If you have questions or concerns regarding stray voltage in your livestock confinement building(s), or are planning an addition, or constructing a new one, call Steele-Waseca at 507-451-7340 or 800-526-3514. Steele-Waseca will work with you and your electrician to eliminate potential stray voltage problems. You may also visit: www.minnesotastrayvoltageguide.com.

health & safety connection



How does your home stack up?



For more information visit SafeElectricity.org

Community Lutheran Church
Geneva, MN

Worship Service at 8:30 am

18th

**Annual
Meatball
Dinner**

Sunday April 26th

Serving from 11:00am – 1:00 pm

Menu: Meatballs, Mashed
Potatoes & Gravy, Corn, Cole Slaw,
Buns

Assorted Pie for Dessert.

Tickets for the Quilt Raffle are \$1
donation per ticket and can be
gotten from the Community
Lutheran Church women, or at the
door.

FREE WILL DONATION

Veterans Open Roundtable Schedule

April 14, 2020.....LT Colonel Buddy Winn (Chaplain)

Buddy enlisted in the MN Army National Guard as a Forward Observer in 1988. He served on active duty in Korea with the 2nd Infantry Division as a Driver and Forward Observer, followed by an assignment in the 10th Mountain Division at Ft Drum, NY as Fire Support Sergeant, next a Readiness Training and Supply NCO in various MN Army National Guard units. Chaplain Winn later deployed to Kuwait in 2011-12. Chaplain Winn is the full time Support Chaplain for the MN National Guard and currently serves as the Command Chaplain for the 34th Infantry Division.

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church-
Second Tuesday of the month
February 2020 - June 2020 at 7:00pm

Veterans Round Table

PO Box 864

Owatonna, MN 55060

Programs can be viewed at
owatonnalive.com

sparks • april 2020